# NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

## AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

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N. E. FARMER.

### TRIAL OF PLOUGHS AT WORCESTER.
### No. II.

The trial of ploughs at Worcester on the 13th October, has created so much interest in the agricultural community, that we continue our remarks upon it, our limits in the last N. E. Farmer obliging us to cut short our observations.

The award of the Committee of the premium of one hundred dollars to Prouty & Mears, for the plough best adapted to lay the furrow slice flat, and to Charles Howard, for the plough best adapted to lay it at an oblique angle, the premium of seventy-five dollars, have given, we believe, general satisfaction. Where men's private interests or friendships are immediately affected, universal acquiescence is scarcely to be expected. In a case of competition so close, and in which the claimants come up in a line in a sort of lock-step, as the state prisoners march to their work, almost treading upon the heels of each other, it is extremely difficult to distinguish between them. Our own judgment would have given a somewhat different award from that of the Committee; but we have not for that reason, any less respect for the judgment of the Committee. They had more and different elements on which to form their opinions than what we possessed; and the impartiality and disinterestedness of their decision are unquestionable.

The report of the sub-committee, which is drawn up with ability, is silent in some respects, where information was desired, and the public had some reason to expect it. This may have arisen from a strong desire to satisfy early the impatience of the community to see their report.

In the conditions of the award, regard, it was said, was to be had "to the strength of the plough, easiness of draft, excellence of the work it performs, and its cheapness." The Committee rest mainly upon the *easiness of draft*. Nothing is said of the *strength* of the respective ploughs nor of their *cheapness*. We heard no statement of price required or given in, though it may have been done without our knowledge.

In respect to the "excellence of the work" performed by the plough, "the committee think they may add that the excellence of the work performed with the ploughs, was with few exceptions in the direct ratio of the ease of draft." These few exceptions being left both in number and name, to conjecture, the assertion of the committee may safely stand. We wish, however, they had been more explicit. We have no hesitation, and we are willing to risk what little agricultural reputation we have, in saying that the best work in laying the furrow slice at an oblique angle, was done by James Stewart, of West Newbury, with Wilkie's Scotch plough. We refer particularly to the work performed in the afternoon, and not seen, we believe except by a few of the Committee. It was beautiful and exact, and approached the perfection of the art. The work done by the Barnet plough was admirable. The work done by the ploughs of Ruggles & Co., was excellent, and especially as seen the ensuing day at the county ploughing-match, though the efforts of the ploughman in the management of this plough, (himself exceedingly skilful,) were so much more severe than were necessary, that some persons pleasantly suggested that the dynamometer should be applied to him as well as to the plough.

The furrows, where the trial was had, were too short for the work to be done to the best advantage; and the different ploughings should not have been laid upon each other, but each ploughing should have been kept wholly distinct from its neighbor. In an experiment entirely novel among us, it is not surprising that the arrangements should not have been perfect; but it is surprising that they should have been so unexceptionable as they were.

Several interesting points of discussion came up; and questions were involved in the case, which could hardly have been anticipated. In one matter we should be at issue with an opinion maintained by many persons; whether held and acted upon by the committee, we do not know. We will state the case.

The premium, it was understood, should belong to the plough. Now in order to determine the excellence of a plough by actual trial, should the skill of the ploughman be at all taken into consideration? Many gentlemen were of opinion that it should not be: because, it was said, that a skilful ploughman, with a comparatively poor implement, would do better work than a poor ploughman with a good plough. In such a trial as this, therefore, upon this presumption it would seem as though skill and excellent management in ploughing were likely to be prejudicial to success, because, in a result at all doubtful, it might be said, that the good work was the effect of the ploughman's superior art. If any improper bias could be supposed to have operated in this case, certainly not intentionally nor consciously, this was likely to have its influence, as there were in the field two, perhaps three ploughmen of masterly skill. Be this, however, as it may, we have no disposition to give any encouragement, directly or indirectly, to ignorance, which is avoidable, or to indolence or negligence in any case. We have no desire for farming implements which will go of their own accord, and equally well under a careless as a careful superintendence. We therefore, without a question, regard *that as the best implement, which in the best hands will do the best work.* The excellence of the work which it is capable of performing is the test of the excellence of the implement, as far as that point is concerned. In the final judgment of the Committee various other matters were of course to be considered. The cheapness of agricultural instruments is a matter of much importance. On this point the Committee have given us no light. The first matter to be sought after in an agricultural implement is, that it should be suited to the purpose for which it is designed. Next to this its durability and strength are to be considered. These points being secured, its cheapness comes next. Ornament or embellishment are quite secondary mattors and often out of place; save only the general consideration, that the more handsome and finished an implement is, the more care will generally be taken of it. The expenses of a farmer for tools and carriages, on a large farm especially, are always great, and must demand his attention, unless he means to live by borrowing, a habit which is utterly disgraceful and mean, and which renders a man a perfect nuisance to his neighbors.

In respect to rollers, for example, we have known the prices vary from seven to fifty dollars, and a roller costing fifteen dollars was as good as we could desire. For cutting machines we have known paid three dollars, and have paid sixtythree dollars for one of Eastman's. Green's at thirty, has been perfectly effectual. We mention these cases to show how much expense is often incurred without any advantage.

We did not learn the prices of all the ploughs presented for trial, and could have wished the committee had given them, since the cheapness of the implement was to be taken into their calculation. Wilkie's Scotch plough being made almost wholly of wrought iron, beam as well as handles, excepting the mould-board, must be an expensive instrument; and the difficulty of handling by persons unused to it, will prevent its extensive adoption among us. We believe the excellent form of the mould-board of this plough might be preserved; and framed with wood by some of our ingenious mechanics, it would come much into use. The Barnet plough, in which this has been to a degree attempted, is priced at seven dollars, but made far in the interior where labor and materials are low. The Bergen plough, capable of doing very good work, sells for seven dollars, but the workmanship is ordinary and coarse. The plough of Barnaby & Mooers, of Ithaca, N. Y., called the SUPERSEDER, with two mould-boards, and made in a substantial and neat manner, sells for twelve dollars. The No. of Howard's plough which obtained the premium, is sold for twelve dollars, but this without roller or cutter. The plough of Prouty & Mears which obtained the premium, is sold without roller or cutter for eleven and a half dollars. With other prices we are not acquainted. The farmer who would live by his farm, must practice the most rigid economy; and we recommend to him, where his great object, the doing of his work in the best manner, can be attained without it, to pay nothing for his fancy; unless with one only exception, his industrious wife wants a new gown or bonnet.

As it respects the manner in which the furrow slice should be laid, whether perfectly flat or at an oblique angle, as we have said, this depends as much upon the adroitness of the ploughman as upon the form of the plough. There are exceptions, however, to this remark, as with the Scotch plough it is almost impossible to lay the furrow slice flat. The Scotch farmers never practice this kind of ploughing. Where land is to be ploughed, and without other cultivation than that of harrowing, immediately laid down to grass again, a practice which in many cases is much to be commended,

there can be no objection to 'shutting the slice in,' as it is termed, and laying it as flat as possible; but where land is wet and to be sowed with winter grain, or ploughed in the spring for cultivation, we should much prefer that the sward should be laid obliquely or at an angle of fortyfive degrees. At this angle, it can be demonstrated, that a larger amount of surface is exposed to the action of the air than at any other, an influence of the highest importance; and at the same time where land is wet, in the small channels made by the lapping of the furrow slices, a passage is left for the discharge of superfluous water. At the same time a deeper and more friable surface is presented for cultivation; and where the ploughing is well done, the decomposition of the vegetable matter turned under is equally well secured. The turning of the furrow slice so as to lay it flat or at an oblique angle, must depend, as we have said somewhat upon the shape of the plough, much upon the skill of the ploughman; and not a little upon the relative proportions, which the width and depth of the furrow slice bear to each other; it having been found that a furrow slice of ten inches in width requires a depth of about seven inches to lay it at an inclination of 45°. When a depth of only four inches is prescribed, as was the case for the single teams at the county ploughing-match the ensuing day, and the width of the furrow slice is at the pleasure of the ploughman, it would be difficult to lay it otherwise than flat.

We deem it a duty, as a warning hereafter, to express our regret that any suspicions should have been excited of an attempt by finesse to produce a false impression of the actual power of draft required by the plough, by reducing the depth of the furrow after the dynamometer was applied. We do not say that this was done or if done, that it was done by design; but it was suspected to have been done. We certainly shall not say by whom these suspicions were entertained or to what plough they applied; but they existed, and give us occasion to speak not of the intrinsic wrong merely, but to say that in such cases always all attempts at overreaching or deception of any kind, are sure to operate with a fatal effect against the success of a competitor, where under other circumstances he might have claimed it.

Upon the whole the experiment was well conducted and its results will be most important to the country. The Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, who by their intelligence and public spirit so liberally seconded and forwarded the experiment, will not deem it disrespectful or any thing more than an act of justice to say, that this plan of a trial of ploughs originated with John Prince, Esq., of Roxbury, for some years a member of the board, and as intelligent, practical and zealous a friend of agricultural improvement as has ever labored in the State. We are happy that he should have enjoyed the pleasure of witnessing the success of his project; and of anticipating with certainty its future beneficial results. We hope this premium will be continued; and that an earlier and more extensive publicity will be given to it. We can hardly account for the general silence of the agricultural papers on the subject previous to the trial.

The Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society deserve, likewise, the grateful acknowledgements of the agricultural community for the liberal manner in which they conducted this experiment. Our community, generally, are little sensible to the benefits which have been derived from the services of these gentlemen. We have been familiar with their operations for more than thirty years, and with their previous history, though no farther connected with them than as a member of the Society; and we confidently assert that the first impulse to agricultural improvement in the State and in the country was given by their association; that the present improved condition of agriculture in Massachusetts is mainly due to them; that they have most liberally without fee or reward, expended their time, money and services for the useful objects of their association; that no agricultural board in the country has done or been willing to do more; that no Society, with the exception of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, with Judge Peters, Judge Tilghman and Dr. Mease at its head, has ever done one quarter so much; and that their annual prospectus and offer of premiums, shows a most judicious selection of objects and a liberal and discreet distribution of the funds in their keeping. They certainly do not need this humble tribute at our hands; but they will not, we trust, be offended that we render "honor to whom honor is due."

We have farther remarks on the trial of ploughs to submit to our readers, which will be found under the editorial head. H. C.

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From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

## THE BROWN CORN, &c.

*Moultonborough, N. H., Oct. 12th, 1840.*

Hon. Isaac Hill.—The lively interest that you have heretofore manifested in relation to the Indian corn crop, which holds such an important rank in agriculture, induces me to furnish you with some remarks on another year's experience in raising Indian corn. As there are no society premiums offered on crops the present year, there would have been nothing to induce me to measure an acre of corn so exact, had it not been by the request of Dr. C. T. Jackson, who has recently visited me and seen my corn standing in the field. I have, therefore, been very exact in measuring one acre of ground before harvesting the corn, and have personally attended in harvesting and weighing the whole of the crop, of which I have sent you a fair specimen. I have made a pretty correct estimate of the expense of manure and labor on the said acre of ground the present year, which is as follows:—

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| Manure, 40 loads, at $1 per load, | $40 00 |
| Labor of drawing manure and spreading; 9 days work, | 6 75 |
| Ploughing twice; 6 days work, and plough $1, | 5 50 |
| Harrowing twice; 2 days work, | 1 50 |
| Planting; 6 days work, $4 50, and seed corn, half bushel, 75 cts. | 5 25 |
| Hoeing; 10 days work, | 7 50 |
| Topping stalks; 4 days work, | 3 00 |
| Harvesting; 10 days work, | 7 50 |
| Total, reckoning labor and board at 75 cents per day, | $77 00 |

The crop of corn raised on the acre is 8531 lbs., and estimating 70 pounds for a bushel, makes 121 bushels and 3 pecks. Calculating the crop of corn to be worth $1, and the fodder equal to two tons of hay at $10 per ton, $20; estimating the acre before the manure was put on at $50, and $120; interest $3 for one year added on to the $77 makes $80; deduct the $80 expense from the $120 income, makes $40 nett income, and the acre of land worth at least $20 more than it was one year ago, which is in reality $60 net income. Besides, 5480 pounds of the corn is neatly traced up for seed, and is the finest lot of seed I have ever had.

Suppose I had cultivated the same acre of ground in the ordinary way: say put on

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| 10 loads of manure, | $10 00 |
| Plough and harrow once, | 3 50 |
| Planting, $4 50; small seeds, 50 cts. | 5 00 |
| Hoeing, | 7 50 |
| Topping stalks and harvesting, | 5 00 |
| Interest on the land, | 3 00 |
| The whole expense of cultivating in this way is, | $34 00 |

30 bushels of corn would be a fair estimate, and fodder equal to one ton of hay, which would make $40. Deduct the $34 expense from the $40 income, and we have $6 nett income, and the land not at all improved. Thus by adding 30 loads of manure and a little labor, we gain $60 stead of $6.

The above estimate is a fair contrast between the two modes of cultivation, and shows the great advantage of the one over the other. I have raised over two hundred bushels of corn the present season, and have about one hundred bushels of very fine seed. By the specimen of corn which I have sent, you will see some eight rowed, some ten, and some twelve. The two ears braided together grew on one stock. I planted all eight rowed, but the abundant increase of the crop increases the rows on the ear and shows that improvement is still in progression.

The specimen of wheat which I have sent you is the superior *Siberian white bearded wheat.* It was sent to me by Hon. H. L. Ellsworth, from the Patent office at Washington. I have raised eight bushels the present season, and I think it bids fair to be the best wheat ever cultivated in this part of the country. The straw is bright as silver and not liable to rust. It stands the drought better than the Tea wheat, is free from smut, and is clear from any other grains.

Yours, with much respect,
JOHN BROWN, 2d.

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*Preservation of Cabbages.*—The following methods of preserving cabbages for winter use, are the result of experience:—

The cabbages should be gathered before injury is done them by the severe fall frosts; the heavy outside leaves should remain on the stalk. Fix a string or cord round the stump near the roots, suspended from the sleepers with the heads downward in a cool cellar, and they are ready and fit for use at all times. Cabbages kept in this manner retain all their peculiar flavor and sweetness; the whole virtue of the stump and leaves is concentrated in the part which is used, are handy of access, occupy but little room which would be occupied by other purposes, and seldom, if ever rot; the outside leaves wilt and contract, and in time become quite dry, which form a sort of coating that serves to exclude the air from the inside of the head.

Another method practised by some, and highly recommended, is to cut the head from the stump, pack close in a sack, taking care to fill up the vacancies with dry chaff, thereby excluding the air, and keep in a dry cellar.—*Albany Cult.*

## A BRILLIANT STUCCO WHITEWASH.

Many have probably often heard of the brilliant and lasting whitewash upon the east end of the President's house at Washington. The following is a correct recipe for making it:

Take clean lumps of well burnt lime, (say five or six quarts,) slack the same with hot water in a tub, (covered, to keep in the steam,) pass it in the fluid form through a fine seive; add one fourth of a pound of whiting or burnt alum, pulverized; one pound of good sugar; three pints of rice flour, made into a thin and well boiled paste, and one pound of clean glue, dissolved by first soaking it well, and then putting it into a small kettle, which should again be put into a larger one filled with water, and placed over a slow fire. Add five gallons of hot water to the whole mixture.

This wash is applied, where particular neatness is required, with a painter's brush. It must be put on while warm, if upon the outside of the building —if within doors, cold. It will retain its brilliancy many years. There is nothing of the kind that will compare with it. About one pint of the mixture will cover a square yard upon the outside of a house, if properly applied. If a larger quantity than five gallons is wanted, the same proportions must be observed in preparing. Coloring matter may be added, to give it any required shade.

Will some one try it, and communicate the result?—*Genesee Far.*

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*Greatest Crop of Corn yet noticed.*—We are pretty confident that the islands of the Winnipiseogee Lake in New Hampshire, will bear away the palm of the largest crops of corn the present year. Capt. Pillsbury, upon the Derby farm, which embraces the Cow island, has this year several acres planted with the Golden Sioux, being of the same kind with the Dutton or Phinney corn. The corn was planted in hills at the distance of two feet one way by three feet the other. As the best method of ascertaining the quantity of corn upon an acre, Capt. Pillsbury has adopted the more certain method of measuring by weight. The whole weight of a measured acre of the Golden Sioux corn, upon Mr Derby's farm, was 9216 pounds: this, at 70 lbs. to the bushel, would measure 131 6-10 bushels to the acre.

Of the species of Black oats, as high as 94 bushels to the acre without manure, were raised on the fields which produced the great crop of last year. This is an extraordinary crop for the present year.

The average crop of wheat—larger than we have heard in the State the present season—was 34 bushels to the acre upon the Derby farm.

For the foregoing information we are indebted to Doctor Jackson, the State Geologist, who has visited the farms upon the Lake islands. Doctor J. says, there is nothing in the soil of these islands differing from that of the highland townships in the vicinity.—*Farmer's Month. Visitor.*

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*New method of destroying the Black Grub, or Cut Worm.*—The destruction of crops by the cut worm is incalculable in most parts of the United States, and countless remedies, have been offered, but not one strikes us more forcibly then the following, taken from a number of the Genesee Farmer. The secret consists in turning up the ground with the plough during the winter, so as to freeze the eggs. A correspondent of Judge Tucker says, "one of my neighbors wishing to try the experiment, broke up one of his fields, adjoining the field of another neighbor—the two fields being separated only by a worm fence—during the warm spells in winter, when the ground ploughed during the day would freeze at night. The spring following he again broke up the ground and planted it in corn, but not a cut worm was to be seen the whole season; while his neighbor, who ridiculed the idea of breaking up ground in the winter to prevent the cut worm from destroying the corn, broke up in the spring and planted it in corn; but what was his surprise when he saw his field filled with cut worms and his corn almost destroyed, while the adjoining field of his neighbor remained unmolested." The writer says, many similar experiments have been made, and with universal good success.—*The Agriculturatist.*

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New England Girls.—Rev. Mr. Morrison of New Bedford, in his Petersburgh centennial sermon, says:—'Early in our history, the hand card, the little wheel and the loom with the hand shuttle, were almost the only instruments of manufacture in the place. The grandmother of Gov. Miller paid for four hundred acres of land in fine linen, made entirely (except getting out the flax) by her own hands. The Farmer's Monthly Visiter remarks on the above incident as follows: 'Here is an example for the ladies of New England that would be worth following. Affected female delicacy or refinement have surely nursed a race inferior to the first mothers of our land. We know not how or why the linen hand wheel has been thrown aside. It ought to be restored.

'So ought the farmers of New England to keep up the fashion of growing flax. This article, on a well prepared ground, may be made a source of profit. Where the climate is too severe for the growth of the mulberry, let the experiment of raising flax be revived. Family manufacture of linen will best indicate the talent of both male and female. He must be a good farmer who knows how to raise a good crop of flax—to save and secure the valuable seed—to dew rot or water rot it, and finally to break and to clean the flax fit for the hatchel. And the young lady, who, under the guidance of a faithful mother, has hatcheled and spun the beautiful fibre upon the hand wheel, wove and whitened her damask linen table cloths, her twenty pair of sheets, with double sets of pillow cases, her white fringed window curtains, etc., will better recommend herself to a good husband, than she who has had thousands expended in teaching her the use of the piano forte, which, if she ever had a taste to play, must be thrown away in a day or a month after marriage.'

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## LARGE AND SMALL FARMS.

We have before alluded to the mania which seems to be cherished by farmers in this country for large farms—for cultivating many acres of land. The subject is well handled in the following article from the Farmer's Cabinet:

"I wish my brother farmers would think very seriously on the advantages to be derived from the system of cultivating no more land than can be well manured. The desire of more land has been the ruin of thousands, who would at this time have been well off, if *their friends* had deprived them of one half the acres which they at one time possessed; while the extra labor and anxiety consequent upon a business so spread abroad, are all that many have gained, and all they had a right to expect to obtain. And it would appear to be a fatality to which persons of this sort are subject, for they would surely be able to see *the nose in the middle of the face*—for one is not more plain than the other. If ten acres of land can be made to yield as much as one hundred, merely by concentrating upon the means of improvement, the labor and care necessary for the cultivation of one hundred acres, the result must be profit of mind, body and substance, absolutely astonishing! Now only for a moment calculate the difference in labor, in hauling the manure over one hundred acres instead of ten, and after that the spreading of it abroad! Then comes ten times the ploughing, harrowing, sowing with ten times the quantity of seed, hoe-harrowing, mowing or reaping, and binding and raking over one hundred acres instead of ten, and extra carry-crops; and after all this, *ten times the rent to pay*—I declare it appears to be a species of insanity, this desire for more land.

I have lately seen a farm where all these evils are embodied—of excellent natural fertility, fields large and lying on an easy declivity, with every facility for permanent improvement, marl of the richest quality in the middle of the estate, and within three feet of the surface. Now, if the owner of this fine farm of about two hundred acres, would confine his labors to ten acres of land adjoining his house, and give all the rest to the stock upon the farm, only mowing the weeds to prevent them seeding his and his neighbors' land, I believe he would then make a *profit* while at present he must *make a loss.*

I was told recently of a farmer who cultivated one acre of land adjoining a field of thirty acres—both were planted with rye; and at harvest a bet was made that the yield of the one acre was equal to that of the thirty acres; this was, however, lost, for the crop of thirty acres measured exactly *three quarters of a bushel more than the one acre*—these fields I have seen; and I have also seen another field, where the owner offered to dispose of the crop of rye *for a dollar an acre*, but could get no purchaser at that price.

Now, is it not much better to double the crop than to double the number of acres? But I have land lying before me, which would yield five hundred per cent more than it now does, by extra management. An Old Farmer.

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*The Cotton Crop.*—The Mississippian of the 25th ult. says: "The developements so far go to show that the crop of cotton in Mississippi will be unusually short; say at least a third less than for several years past. In the Spring, the State was visited by a number of severe freshets and hail storms, which destroyed many fields, and subsequently the growing crop was much injured by the rust, and of late the crop has been infested in a most destructive manner by the army worm. The price of the staple, however, is looking up, and it may be expected that the shortness of the crop will not be materially felt."

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Our farmers are improving the fine weather to bring in their produce. The chief article thus far is onions, of which several loads arrive daily. The crop this year has been a fair average one per acre, though the quantity raised is perhaps double that of any preceding year. The usual product is about three hundred bushels per acre.—*Peoria Register.*

## WORCESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*Report of the Committee on Paintings.*

The Committee on Paintings, having, in such manner as circumstances would permit, attended to the duties assigned them, make their report.

It is a subject of congratulation that such choice and varied specimens of this art are to be found in and about Worcester. It is not less gratifying to perceive among those who possess these treasures, a most liberal disposition to extend to their fellow citizens the pleasure and advantage afforded by an examination of productions of genius and taste.

Although it has been customary, at the exhibition from which the farmers' annual festival derives much of its animation and interest, to introduce among the articles emphatically denominated useful, more or less of those properly pertaining to the fine or elegant arts, a collection of such works, upon an extended scale, has not been attempted. A design of this nature has had its origin with the establishment of a new association, intended to promote those branches of culture which include matters of luxury and ornament. We believe, however, that a gallery of paintings has not heretofore, by similar societies, been appended even to a display of fruits and flowers. There is, therefore, something of novelty in the plan, and it will perhaps be expected, at the outset of such an undertaking, that a few remarks should be made respecting its practical use, and its connection with other objects of agricultural and horticultural celebrations. As yet, no premiums even of an honorary character, have been proposed for this department of the exhibition. In the choice, therefore, between attempting a few hasty general observations, or a few hasty descriptions or criticisms of particular paintings, we have decided upon the former as more appropriate now, while for the latter purposes better opportunities will probably exist hereafter.

The sphere of the agriculturist, who owns the land he tills, and applies to his private use the results of the seed he has planted, is not limited to the growth of supplies for merely indispensable wants. The earth produces fruits that gratify his finer appetites as freely as it yields corn and potatoes. Flowers, too, spring up beneath his feet, and invite his eye to an appreciation of beauty in its compound elements of form and color. In short, he who cultivates the soil is surrounded by endless means of harmless luxury, and is in the midst of the purest sources of true refinement; and if his ears is fully opened to the voice of nature, in whose bosom he dwells, he will hear it calling him to enjoy the charms of varied flavors, of rich hues, and of the lights and shades of scenery, as loudly as to reap the grain or kill the fatted calf.

We find, indeed, a most natural and connected step of advancement from plain and simple agriculture to horticulture, whose objects of cultivation appeal to tastes that are reached and gratified through the medium of sight as well as to the relish of the palate. The art of horticulture, embracing as it does the rearing of both ornamental and fruit trees, the growth of flowers and shrubbery, and the general improvement of grounds, stands, as it were, between the homelier offices of husbandry and the highest arts of refined life. It is favorably situated for bringing these into a mutual and useful alliance. If it owes most to the practical employments of the one, a knowledge of the nice and delicate principles on which the others depend, can alone carry it to perfection.

Experience teaches us, that a sensibility to the beauties of proportion and of color, although universal in the human constitution, needs to be educated by observation and comparison in order to a just and correct action when practical judgments are required, and the owner of a farm or country estate, which he seeks to render attractive to the eye of taste, will, without these advantages, be as likely to fail of producing the effects he aims at, as he would of raising good crops without a knowledge of the influences of soil, and position upon their qualities.

It may be said, that nature is the great school where knowledge and experience upon these subjects is best taught and most readily acquired, and to her we may be referred for all that is needful to be learned. It is true that nature is the original source and only perfect standard of taste; yet the best preparation for a profitable observation of nature, is, undoubtedly, a study of her varied features as delineated upon the canvass of the artist. The attention is there drawn to a more particular examination of effects, and the philosophy of their production, and we can there more readily distinguish the means by which those arrangements of vegetable forms, and of lights and shades of foliage, most grateful to the eye, may be accomplished upon our own estates. The harmonies of color, too, subject to as regular laws as the harmonies of sound, are there most instructively manifested. The art of drawing, it is well known, presents to the cognizance of those who practice it, a thousand peculiarities of form and hue, in objects of every kind, from the leaf of a flower up to the outlines of a landscape, which the casual observer would pass by unnoticed. In truth, any one who owns a portion of nature's domain, however small, will find that the pencil of the painter can teach him lessons that may increase his ability to improve and enjoy that which he possesses.

One of the most important secrets of a painter's skill, is the selection of objects that are appropriate to the scene he represents, and in keeping with the general character of the picture. If he were to place a palace or a temple in a barn-yard, or set off a farm house with gay colors and fanciful architecture, we should see at once that he violates the proprieties of his subject. If he prefers the showy to the natural and simple, or fails to leave in shade that which is unpleasing, as well as to bring out into distinct view that which is agreeable, we pronounce him deficient in the genius of his profession. Yet how constantly do we see these points neglected, or mistaken, in and about our grounds and dwellings. It is not that sufficient pains are omitted to be taken, or sufficient expense incurred in such arragements. The error often lies in an excess of these. Instead of the quiet and simple styles, taught by the true artist, where the economical hand of nature is employed to furnish decorations and conceal deformities, a style more ostentatious, more expensive, less convenient, and, to use a much abused term, less genteel, is apt to prevail. The fact is, that an eye and a judgment unpracticed in such discriminations can seldom carry out in execution an intended design. The forms, colors, and positions of things, do not appear after completion as the fancy had anticipated; and he who contrived the plan may perceive as readily as any body, that he has not succeeded in satisfying himself or others.

That cost in matters of taste which fails to accomplish its purposes, is, certainly, so much money worse than wasted, as defects generally become conspicuous in proportion to the display that attends them. The art which teaches that the most genuine elements of beauty are also the cheapest, since a strong argument to the purse can be adduced in its favor, has a right to claim a place among the useful and practical ones. Illustrations of a part of our remarks may be found in every village. Dwellings unsheltered by tree or shrub present boldly to the eye every defect of form and finish. If painted, a glaring color displays more strongly the want of grace and proportion. If unpainted, that deficiency is apt to be made more strikingly manifested by a few variegated strokes of the painter's brush passed up and down the corners and along the sills. If something beyond this is attempted, we shall be likely to see imitation marble steps, quarried from the brain of some mechanical artist. If there is a portico, strange looking figures blue or green appear crawling up the columns. But the chief seat of elaborate and varied ornament is usually the door, made to exhibit, upon its artificial mahogany frame and maple pannels, a tortuosity of knot and grain that nature, in the wildest of her vegetable freaks, never equalled.

Who that should see these in a picture would fail to perceive their incongruity and ugliness, while the humblest abode, which the vine or the tree have adorned with their drapery, and whose modest color permits its rude outlines to mingle with the unstudied forms of nature, becomes an object of beauty and interest. There is no building, however ill proportioned, no material however coarse, that may not, by the simplest means, be made to assume an air of beauty and respectability which the carpenter and house painter alone could not impart.

Every land-holder has in his possession the materials of a great and perfect picture. His field and forests furnish the ground-work into which may be wrought every form and hue of beauty. His harvests, his fruits, his vegetables and flowers, ripening and glowing in the sunshine, provide him colors that art cannot excel. In combining and arranging these materials he becomes an artist, and, like other artists, needs to qualify himself by a study of proper exemplars, not so much for the sake of finding something to imitate, as to improve his taste and rectify his judgment.

It is vain to say, that these things are of no practical importance to the farmer and the husbandman, on the ground that their efforts are directed not to ornament but to profit. Almost every New England farmer is at some cost in improving the appearance of his homestead. We would have him do it by the very means that are the sources of his thrift. Order and neatness are unquestionably favorable to the closest calculations of pecuniary gain; and elegance, if attempted by appropriate means, can be obtained without additional expense.

If our remarks are correct, residents of the country are the people among whom the arts of design may produce the most general and advantageous influence, yet they are the very persons usually debarred from the best opportunities of cultivating the faculties upon which these are founded. Collections of good paintings, for instance, are seldom seen except in large towns and cities, where but few, comparatively, from the agricultural districts are accustomed to visit them. We therefore, consider the plan of connecting such an ex-

hibition with our rural festivals as a valuable improvement which we hope will be continued and extended, and one that can be productive of none but good effects.

It would be a great omission, in speaking of any branch of the fine arts, not to allude to their refining influence upon society. A perception of the beautiful and the appropriate is the real basis of refinement. In France and Italy, where, among all classes, works of art are appreciated, the manners of the people, to some extent, partake of the graceful result of these tastes. Foreigners pronounce Americans to be especially deficient in such characteristics. Yet from the equal relations, we all sustain to each other, Americans most need that influence, which, by rounding off the rough edges of individual characteristics, fits man for easy and comfortable intercourse with his fellows. True refinement is the most unaristocratic principle in the world, approaching nearer to the simplicity of nature just in proportion to the degree of its culture; and he who has accustomed himself to contemplate the elements of beauty in the external world, or their embodyment by the human intellect in words, or in the forms of art, will find himself prepared to fill with propriety any social position.

With regard to the pictures that composed the collection we have just witnessed, we can only say, they would have done honor to any exhibition, in any place—that they are most creditable to the taste of our citizens, and have been submitted to the use of this society with that liberality which a love of art usually inspires. A list of the subjects with the names of owners has been published. We are informed, by those who best know, that additions of new and valuable paintings may be expected annually to give novelty to the exhibition.

For the Committee,
S. F. HAVEN, *Chairman.*

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From the Mark Lane Express.

## PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE.

Sir,—One of the most important subjects for the attention of the practical agriculturist is the nature of manures, the manner in which they act, and the best mode of their application. It has long been known that certain substances blended with the soil have the effect of accelerating the growth of vegetables and increasing the crop; but the manner of bringing them into action, and of adapting them to the nature of the soil to be improved, has long been a subject of discussion. Chemistry, and more particularly that branch of it which shows the nature and composition of soils, will assist in this research, inasmuch as it should be the study of the farmer to correct the defects and supply the deficiences of the land on which his efforts are applied.

Plants, not possessing the powers of locomotion, can only thrive in those spots which contain the juices necessary for their support, and as the organs through which they derive what may be called their food, are extremely small, it follows that every matter to be introduced into them must be in a state of solution. Fermentation is not necessary to prepare the food of plants, although solutions intended to nourish them must not be too concentrated, or the vegetable organs will become clogged, and the transpiration by the leaves prevented. The great object in the application of manure should therefore be to afford as much soluble matter as possible to the roots of the plant so gradually as to ensure its being taken up and consumed in forming its sap and solid parts. All vegetable manures contain a large quantity of fibrous and insoluble matter, which must undergo certain chemical changes before they can be made thus available. Animal matters decompose more readily, and are sooner prepared for use. The principal substances, either constituting the bodies of animals, or found in their blood or excrements, are gelatine, fibrine, mucus, fatty or oily matter, albumen, urea, uric acid, saline, and earthly matters. All these substances may be used for manure, and require more or less soluble in water; those that are easily disolved should not be exposed to fermentation or putrefaction, and those processess are only useful when the manure consist principally of animal or vegetable fibre. Gelatine, when combined with water, becomes jelly, and is easily soluble. Fibrine is not soluble in water, but by the action of acids it becomes analogous to gelatine; putrefaction with heat and exposure to the air, will reduce it from a solid to a liquid, and a considerable quantity of ammonia and carbonic acid is formed. Mucus is easily soluble in water. Animal fat and oils and albumen are also soluble. Urea is very much so, and readily undergoes putrefaction. Uric acid consists of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and azoti, and is least liable to undergo the process of fermentation. According to the different proportions of these principles in animal substances, the changes they undergo are different—the progress of their decomposition is less rapid when mixed with saline or earthy matter than when they are principally composed of fibrine, albumen, gelatine, or urea. Ammonia, is given off by animal compounds during their putrefaction, and is formed by hydrogen and azoti; the other products are similar to those afforded by the fermentation of vegetable substances, and the soluble substances formed abound in carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, which may be called the constituent parts of vegetables.

The fertilizing power of all these substances, when properly applied is very great, but it often happens that they are wasted by being allowed to remain exposed to the air, till they are either destroyed by birds of prey or decomposed.—Their use, indeed is not common except in certain cases, which I shall afterwards point out.

I am, sir, yours very obediently,
A YEOMAN OF KENT.

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From the Western Farmer and Gardner.

## A COMPARISON OF THE DIFFERENT BREEDS OF SHEEP.

In the Western States, where land is, of course, not so valuable as in the East, the Bakewell breed of sheep, although of a more tender constitution than the Southdown and Cotswodl, and of coaser and smaller fleece, may be advantageously kept for their wool, notwithstanding its quality is rather coarse; it appears, however, from all the information on this subject, (the comparative value of the breeds of sheep,) that the Southdown and Cotswold, are much hardier, better nurses of their lambs, and require less attention through our winter, and will live on shorter pasture in summer. The Merino and Saxon sheep, have often too much the same objection as the Bakewell; they are of rather weekly constitutions, and not very good in rearing their lambs. Some of the Southdown wool is pretty fine and makes good cloth; the mutton is, perhaps, superior to all other kinds, (excepting some of the small Welsh breeds,) their constitutions are very vigorous and strong, and they will make a living in any situation. The Cotswold are equally hardy, but want richer keep than the Southdown, their fleeces weigh heavy, and their quarters have been known to reach 80 pounds in England. Some of the Southdown and Cotswold lambs have weighed, at six months old, 60 pounds, and when full grown 240 pounds. It seems, amongst many other "hard cases" in agricultural efforts for improvement among farmers, very difficult to convince people of the benefit they derive from having good stock. They complain too much of the first cost, without considering that in two or three years there is a fair prospect of not only seeing their money back again, but probably ten times as much more. We do not wish to advise farmers to go beyond their means on much uncertainty, but we do say, that twenty dollars laid out for the best breed of pigs, and fifty to one hundred dollars for sheep, or one hundred to two hundred dollars towards improving their cattle, will with proper management and attention to the sale of their produce, pay a handsome profit at the end of a few years, besides supplying superior articles at cheaper keep (on account of the fattening properties of the best breeds) for domestic use, and enjoyment of both sight and taste. We subjoin, in the first place, a comparative statement of the value of the different breeds of sheep.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saxon Lamb 6 months old, weighing 18 lbs. at 6 cents, | | | | $1 08 |
| Merino Lamb | do. | do. | 20 | 1 20 |
| Bakewell | do. | do. | 30 | 1 80 |
| Cotswold | do. | do. | 60 | 3 60 |
| Southdown | do. | do. | 50 | 3 00 |

In the second place, their wool

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saxon fleece weighing | 3 lbs. at | 40 cents | | $1 20 |
| Merino | do. | 3 | 31 | 93 |
| Bakewell | do. | 5 | 20 | 1 00 |
| Cotswold | do. | 10 | 25 | 2 50 |
| Southdown | do. | 5 | 31 | 1 55 |

Of course this is rating the best breed of sheep at the price of the common kind, which cannot be, for a long time to come. These animals are now worth about twenty dollars each at least.

In the third place we give a comparative statement of the sheep when full grown:—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saxon Sheep weighing | 50 lbs. at | 4 cents | | $2 00 |
| Merino | do. | 60 | 4 | 2 40 |
| Bakewell | do. | 110 | 4 | 4 40 |
| Southdown | do. | 240 | 4 | 9 60 |

E. J. H.

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*Rohan Potatoes.*—The Shakers at Enfield, N. H. have raised the present season from one potato of the Rohan kind weighing 7 oz., 171 lbs. or 2 1-2 bushels. One eye produced 12 lbs. 3 oz., and one potato weighed 3 lbs. 5 oz. We doubt if our farming friends can produce a greater yield from a single potato than has been done by the Society of Friends at Enfield.—*Far. Monthly Visitor.*

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A TRUTH.—The farmer who consumes all he raises, and runs in debt for what he buys, is certainly in a bad way; and a nation that pursues the same course must expect to arrive at the same result, namely, bankruptcy.—*Alb. Cult.*

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The number of sheep in Vermont is estimated at not short of 1,170,000.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11, 1840.

## TRIAL OF PLOUGHS.—No. III.

[Concluded.]

The trial of ploughs at Worcester being still a subject of much interest among the farmers, we hope we shall be excused for some farther remarks upon it.

We ask leave to suggest, with the highest respect for the judgment of the Trustees, that if these premiums should be continued, they will omit the condition, that two ploughs of the same pattern and of different sizes should be produced. Where competitors come from a great distance, this condition would impose on them a considerable inconvenience without an equivalent advantage, as the model, being all that is desirable, may be obtained as well from one as from more ploughs of the same pattern. We should be glad to invite as extensive a competition as possible. If the ploughs used in other parts of the country are better than ours, we shall be benefited by seeing and trying them. If ours are better than theirs, they will derive a corresponding benefit from our improvements. We were glad that in this competition the palm of superiority should have been awarded to the skilful mechanics of our own state; but we should not have been sorry if it had fallen justly to others. Such a result would have operated at once as an incentive to new exertions and new improvements. Our Massachusetts mechanics would never be satisfied to remain distanced in any honorable competition. The public gains immensely by such competitions; the mechanics, if this is the effect of failure upon them, will certainly lose nothing. We heard considerable regret expressed that some other individuals, distinguished for the excellence of their workmanship, did not obtain a premium. This is a benevolent feeling; but there certainly is no reason why every other disappointed competitor should not be entitled to an equal sympathy. In a case where only two premiums are to be awarded, ten persons cannot be honored with them. The disappointed competitors should feel no other concern in the case than that involved in a determination by every means in their power to excel those who have now distanced them. If this decision were to be perpetual, and must fix the rank of these ploughs for all time to come, it might indeed seriously affect their interests; but it is not so. The field of competition is still open; the upper round of the ladder is not yet reached; perfection in the implement still lies in the distant prospect; and another year may find those now disappointed coming out of the race a full length before the rest.—This is the spirited emulation which we wish to see excited, and from which we may expect a constant improvement. Every generation is disposed to consider itself as having reached the perfection of the arts. A wise man will not permit himself to be betrayed by this overweening self esteem. The progress of the mechanic arts among ourselves has been so extraordinary that a plough deemed excellent in its construction thirty years ago would now be worth little more than its actual value in oven-wood and old iron. Who shall presume to set limits to the progress of the arts?

The very last Farmer's Magazine (London) for October gives a plate and an account of a newly invented and patented plough, "unlike," it is stated, "any other ever offered to the public; possessing greater advantages in every point of view, in its adaptation to various soils and seasons. The greatest nicety in the draught is assisted through a peculiarly constructed hake, no way liable to get out of order. Indeed every day's information affords encouragement to hope these ploughs from their proved utility will supersede all others."—We know nothing of this plough other than what is here stated; but the confidence with which this statement is made, shows at least that a remarkable improvement is supposed to have been effected.

The Committee have not laid too great stress upon the comparative ease or difficulty of draught in different ploughs. Forty years ago a "breaking up" team was a formidable affair. Never less than two yoke, frequently four, and often five yoke of oxen, with two men to drive, one to hold the plough, one to "keep her in," by riding upon the beam, and one to follow the plough in order to mend the baulks, and with a hoe to turn the furrow slice, which would not go over without being assisted, were customarily required in this great operation. Then the field after being ploughed, presented any thing but a neat appearance, and looked more as if it had been rooted by the hogs than if it had been broken up by art and skill. Now unless the soil is very tenacious and difficult, the operation is accomplished often by one, seldom more than two yoke of oxen are needed, with only a man and a boy; and the sward is inverted with neatness and precision, so that it may be brought at once into nice cultivation.*

The power of draught required for different ploughs, is at this time exciting great attention in England. Ploughing is one of the most expensive operations on a farm; and when we consider always the great cost of brute labor, since it is ordinarily estimated to require the produce of three to five cultivated acres per year to support a horse, the saving of fifty per cent. of this expense, with many other incidental and unavoidable charges, the subject assumes a serious importance.

The experiments made by Henry Handley, Esq., M.P., on wheel and swing ploughs present the subjoined results. (July 1839.)

"A stubble field of a sandy loam was selected; partly up and down hill, and partly on a level. The ploughs all by the same maker, were set to the same gauge, viz: furrows six inches deep and ten wide, drawn by a pair of horses abreast, and held by the best men that could be procured, who were occasionally changed from one plough to another. The instrument employed to test them was a draught dynamometer, on Regnier's principle, which had been previously proved, by the suspension of weights, to register with accuracy."

| "Description of Ploughs. | Weight of each Plough. cwt. qrs. lbs. | Draught. cwt. qrs. lbs. |
|---|---|---|
| Rutland, with wheels, | 1 3 22 | 2 1 21 |
| Bedfordshire with wheels, | 1 3 26 | 2 3 24 |
| Lincolnshire swing, | 1 0 18 | 3 0 0 |
| Lincoln Heath, | 1 1 1 | 3 0 11" |

The next experiments, which we shall quote in this case are those of Philip Pusey, Esq., M. P, from a paper recently given to the agricultural public, entitled "Experimental Inquiry on Draught in Ploughing." In these two very able communications from Mr Handley and Mr Pusey, to the Royal Agricultural Society, there are many matters of great interest to the farmers and highly instructive, which we propose at an early occasion to lay before our readers; but we must at present content ourselves with brief abstracts of results and imperfect explanations.

"The first trial was made last September between an old Berkshire plough, a small one-wheeled wooden plough, made by Hart, Ransome's Rutland plough, and some others. The field was a clean oat stubble; the soil a sandy loam, moist with rain; the furrow 9 inches wide and 5 inches deep. The draught of the Berkshire was 3 cwt.; of Hart's plough less than 2 cwt.; and of the Rutland plough, somewhere between these two numbers. Thus it appeared that within one small parish, the same work was performed on the one farm by two horses, as on the other by three, (the smallest number ever attached to the Berkshire plough) and that too with greater ease to the two horses than the three."

Mr Pusey, however, was not satisfied with the power gauge employed by him, owing to the variations occasioned by the inequalities of the surface and the rapidity in some cases of the horses' motion, which made it difficult to mark the degrees on the index with exactness. This evil was, however, afterwards remedied by an improved instrument, which he does not particularly describe.

The next trial was November 6. "The soil a sandy loam, free in working when wet; but notwithstanding its lightness, a little adhesive; a clean wheat stubble. The depth of the furrow was 5 inches by 9 wide. The ploughs drawn by two horses." An English stone is 14lbs avoirdupois.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ferguson's Improved Scotch Swing plough, | 19 stone. |
| 2. | Clark's do. | 20 " |
| 3. | Hart's Improved Berkshire, one wheel, | 14 " |
| 4. | Ransome's F. F., two wheels, | 14 " |
| 5. | Ransome's F. F., Swing, | 18 " |
| 6. | King's Swing, | 18 " |
| 7. | King's one wheel, | 17 " |
| 8. | Rutland's, Ransome's, N. L., two wheels, | 17 " |
| 9. | Old Berks, | 23 " |
| 10. | Holkham plough, two wheels, | 18 " |

On this trial, Mr Pusey observes, "1st. That the Scotch ploughs were the heaviest in the field for the horses, except the old Berkshire; and more than 35 per cent. worse for them than the two lightest ploughs which were Nos. 3 and 4.

"2d. That F. F., which on the same spot of ground and in the same state of moisture, had been 24 stone or 23 stone, now that its mould board was cleaned, drew 18 stone only. This appears to show the importance of the saving the plough irons from being honey-combed as we often see them by rust..

"3d. Ransome's F. F., as a swing plough, was 4 stone, or 28 per cent. heavier than the same plough with its wheels on; and it then equalled in lightness the plough of Hart's, with which it was sent to compete.

"4th. Putting the old Berkshire aside, the four easiest ploughs of the remaining eight, were four distinct wheel ploughs; and the four severest for the horses were four swing ploughs.

"5th. If we once more compare the two ploughs in daily use on this very soil we find Hart's at 14 stone, and the old Berkshire at 23 stone: that is to say, worse by 2 stone for its three horses than Hart's for its two."

These are certainly very important inferences. In another trial on a dark mould on a sub-soil of blue clay, the furrow 6 by 9 inches, "the farmers of this land were all of opinion that even iron mould-boards must not be used upon it, because this clay adheres so much more to iron than to wood." This remark is well worth considering.

The next trial was on a very free, brown, loamy sand, of good quality, without stone, gravel, or clod, resting on a pure yellow sand, on the coral-rag formation.

* "It is impossible for any man to witness a "breaking up" of this kind without being forcibly reminded of the reflection made by a Dutch commentator on that passage in the book of Kings, where it is said that Elisha was found ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen.—'Well,' said the commentator, 'it is no wonder that Elisha was glad enough to quit ploughing for preaching, if he could not break up with less than twelve yoke of oxen.'"—*Quincy's Address at Brighton.*

| | Inches. Furrow | Inch. 4×9 | Inch. 5×9 | Inch. 6×9 | Inch. 7×9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Ferguson's | | 18 | 19 | 19 | 22 |
| 2. Clark's | | 17 | 17 | 18 | 21 |
| 3. Hart's | | 11 | 12 | 16 | 18 |
| 4. F. F Ransome's two wheeled | | 12 | 13 | 18 | 21 |
| 5. F. F. Ransome's Swing, | | 16 | 16 | 18 | 21 |
| 6. King's Swing | | 15 | 15 | 18 | 20 |
| 7. King's one wheel | | 16 | 17 | 21 | 23 |
| 8. Rutland N. L. | | 16 | 16 | 18 | 20 |
| 9. Old Berks | | 21 | 21 | 24 | 31 |

Mr. P. remarks "that Hart's plough on this land might be drawn by one strong horse; it still maintains a slight superiority over its competitor F. F. with wheels; and the latter a considerable one, 25 per cent. over its duplicate as a swing plough, excepting at the lower depths, where the wheels from the lowness of the beam had not room to turn"

Other interesting trials are given but our limits do not admit of our going farther into them. The comparative ease of draught between wheel and swing ploughs, the power required to draw a plough on the surface compared with that required to draw it in the furrow, different forms of mould-boards, the use of one or two wheels, the action of the share, the bridle at the end of the beam, or what we call the clavis, the depth of ploughing, sub-soil ploughing, and many other topics connected with this subject remain to be discussed; and will come along as our convenience and the indulgence of our readers will permit.

We shall now close with some short remarks on another topic. We still find men, claiming respect from others for their intelligence, and even setting themselves as the instructers of others, endeavoring to flatter the prejudices of the vulgar by speaking contemptuously of book learning and what are called gentlemen farmers. Away with such despicable nonsense! It will be seen that these experiments upon this first of all instruments, and of such immense importance to the farmers, have been undertaken and conducted both in England and here by men of the highest intelligence and education, availing themselves of the best practical skill which can be obtained. We should be glad to know what ignorant and stupid fellow ever made any improvement in any thing? We should be glad to know what improvement in the arts has ever been made but by men of profound minds, of philosophical inquiry, and enlarged knowledge, at least in their particular department.

There never would have been an agricultural society in the country had not men of education and inquisitive minds taken hold of it. There is not now in the Commonwealth a single agricultural society which is not mainly indebted to the men of education and cultivated minds for its prosperity. The Agricultural Society at Worcester is a striking example. It has been established twenty two years. It has gone on in a steady course of improvement and is now eminently prosperous. It has trebled at least the agricultural wealth of the county. Now is there a Farmer of candid mind or indeed of any mind at all, who will not admit and gratefully acknowledge that this has been mainly owing to the intelligence, public spirit, and disinterestedness of the gentleman farmer, the scholar, who has always presided over it; and who by his admirable address has united with him in these public efforts other, and many of the first and most cultivated minds in the county.—If indeed in this most important of all arts, an art offering abundant matter for philosophical investigation and experiment, ignorance is to be placed upon a footing with knowledge, and the aids of education and science are to be disdained, we may as well go back to the savage state, plant our corn with a clam shell and grind it with a paving stone. H. C.

ERRATA.—In the Farmer of last week, page 142, 2d column, line 9th from bottom, for 'furrow slide' read furrow slice; 3d col. 44th line from bottom, for 'all that time' read at that time: 33d line from do., for 'level side' read land side; 23d line from do., for 'furrow slide' read furrow slice; 6th line from do., after 'other' insert end.


**SILVER FIR AND SPRUCE SEEDS.**

Just received at the New England Farmer Office, a few Bushels of the seed of the Silver Fir, Spruce. Also—English Oak, a fine specimen; Spanish Chesnuts, (very large); with a variety of other tree seeds.

Nov. 18, 1840. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.


BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY, Nov. 9, 1840.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 1500 Beef Cattle, 600 Stores, 3800 Sheep, and 520 Swine.

PRICES.—*Beef Cattle*.—In consequence of the Election and the storm, purchasers were scarce and sales few. We quote first quality, $5 25 a $5 50. Second quality, $4 75 a $5 00. Third quality, $3 50 a $4 50.

*Barrelling Cattle*.—Prices further reduced. We quote Mess $4 50; No. 1 $4 00; No. 2 $3 00.

*Stores*.—No sales effected to-day

*Sheep*.—Lots were sold at $1 33 $1 42, $1 75, $1 88, $2 00, $2 33 and $2 50.

*Swine*.—Lots to peddle at 3 1-2, 3 5-8, and 3 7-8 for sows and 4 1-2, 4 5-8, and 4 7-8 for barrows. At retail from 4 1-2 to 5 1-2.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending Nov. 8.

| Nov. 1840. | | 6 A.M. | 12, M. | 6, P.M. | Wind. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday, | 2 | 34 | 45 | 38 | E. |
| Tuesday, | 3 | 39 | 50 | 40 | E. |
| Wednesday, | 4 | 41 | 46 | 45 | N. |
| Thursday, | 5 | 38 | 43 | 46 | N. E. |
| Friday, | 6 | 40 | 52 | 50 | N. E. |
| Saturday, | 7 | 42 | 41 | 44 | N. E. |
| Sunday, | 8 | 44 | 51 | 46 | E. |


**FARM FOR SALE.**

The subscriber offers for sale that valuable Farm, situated about 3-4ths of a mile below the First Parish Meeting House, on the Stage road, and commonly known as the Judge Prescott farm, containing about 170 acres of superior land, in a good state of cultivation, with two dwelling houses, four barns, and other out buildings. The farm is remarkably well watered with soft water, conveniently fenced, has nearly forty acres of large, handsome wood and timber standing on it, with an orchard of grafted Apple, Pear, Peach, Plum, and Cherry trees, and might be easily divided into two Farms. The estate will be sold reasonably. If five thousand dollars be paid on receipt of the deed, the remainder may lay on mortgage to suit the convenience of the purchaser. For further particulars, apply to the subscriber, living on the premises. WM. SALISBURY.

Groton, Oct. 26, 1840. eow.

**FRUIT TREES FOR SALE.**

At the Pomological Garden, Salem, Mass., a good collection of Fruit Trees of the best Native and Foreign varieties. Apply by mail to the subscriber,

ROBERT MANNING.

Salem, Oct 14, 1840.

**COWS WANTED.**

Wanted to hire on fair terms 2 or 3 good Cows that will give a good quantity of Milk through the winter,—or would purchase if preferred. Any communication addressed to Taunton Post office, box 26, will be immediately attended to.

Oct. 28. 3w

**GREEN HOUSE PLANTS, &c. &c.**

The subscriber can furnish every variety of Green House Plants or Garden Shrub, in the very best order. Also—Dahlia roots, (all the new varieties); Black Hamburg, Sweetwater, and Isabella Grape vines; Roses and Pæonies; Honeysuckles, and other creepers; Black, White, and Red Currant trees; White and Red Antwerp Raspberry vines; Asparagus and Rhubarb roots, &c.

Orders by mail will be promptly and faithfully executed; or they can be forwarded to, or left with J. Breck & Co.

JAMES L. L. F. WARREN.

Oct. 28. Nonantum Vale, Brighton.

**WALKER'S FINE TULIPS.**

For sale at No. 52, North Market street, a great variety of Walker's fine named Tulips, at $3 per dozen, with their names. Many of the original Bulbs cost five times that sum. Those who intend to set out a tulip bed, will do well to call soon, as October is the best month for this business.

Fine Mixed tulips without names, $1 per dozen. Also Hyacinths of every variety, embracing all the most approved sorts, with a great variety of other bulbous roots.

Boston, Oct. 21, 1840. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

**FENCE CHAINS.**

Just received from England, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, 6 casks chains, suitable for making the chain fence, &c. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

July 15.


WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

| | | From | To |
|---|---|---|---|
| APPLES, Winter, | barrell | 1 50 | 1 75 |
| ASHES, Pearl, per 100 lbs. | | 5 50 | 5 75 |
| Pot, " " " | | 5 00 | 5 25 |
| BEANS, white, Foreign, | bushel | 1 75 | 2 25 |
| " " Domestic, | " | 2 00 | 2 50 |
| BEEF, mess, new, | barrel | | 12 00 |
| No. 1. | " | | 10 00 |
| prime, | " | 7 00 | 7 25 |
| BEESWAX, white, | pound | 37 | 40 |
| yellow, | " | 28 | 29 |
| BRISTLES, American, | " | 35 | 70 |
| BUTTER, shipping, | " | 8 | 16 |
| dairy, | " | 16 | 22 |
| CANDLES, mould, | " | 13 | 14 |
| dipped, | " | | |
| sperm, | " | | 37 |
| CHEESE, new milk, | pound | 7 | 8 |
| CIDER, | dozen | 1 25 | 1 50 |
| | barrel | 1 50 | 1 75 |
| BONE MANURE, | bushel | | 32 |
| in casks, | " | | 37 |
| FEATHERS, northern, geese, | pound | | |
| southern, geese, | " | 37 | 45 |
| FLAX. (American) | " | 9 | 12 |
| FISH, Cod, Grand Bank, | quintal | 2 44 | 2 58 |
| Bay, Chaleur, | " | | 2 13 |
| Haddock, | " | 1 07 | 1 25 |
| Mackerel, No. 1, | barrel | 12 75 | 13 00 |
| No. 2, | " | | 10 75 |
| No. 3, | " | 6 50 | 6 75 |
| Alewives, dry salted, No. 1. | " | | |
| Salmon, No. 1, | " | 17 00 | 18 00 |
| FLOUR, Genesee, cash, | " | 5 12 | 5 25 |
| Baltimore, Howard street, | " | 5 37 | 5 50 |
| Richmond canal, | " | | |
| Alexandria wharf, | " | | 5 37 |
| Rye, | " | | 3 37 |
| MEAL, Indian, in bbls. | " | 3 25 | 3 37 |
| GRAIN: Corn, northern yellow, | bushel | | 66 |
| southern flat, yellow, | " | 58 | 59 |
| white, | " | 53 | 54 |
| Rye, northern, | " | 60 | 65 |
| Barley, | " | | |
| Oats, northern, (prime) | " | 40 | 42 |
| southern, | " | 28 | 32 |
| GRINDSTONES, pr ton of 2000 lbs. rough | | 18 00 | 19 00 |
| do. do. do. finished | | 28 00 | 30 00 |
| HAMS, northern, | pound | 10 | 11 |
| southern and western, | " | 9 | 10 |
| HAY, best English, per ton, | | 15 00 | 16 00 |
| Eastern screwed, | | 10 50 | |
| HOPS, 1st quality, | pound | 20 | 25 |
| 2d quality, | " | | 20 |
| LARD, Boston, | " | 12 | 13 |
| southern, | " | 11 | 12 |
| LEATHER, Philadelphia city tannage, | " | 26 | 30 |
| do. country do. | " | 23 | 28 |
| Baltimore city tannage, | " | 22 | 27 |
| do. dry hides, | " | 20 | 23 |
| New York red, light, | " | 19 | 21 |
| Boston, do. slaughter, | " | 21 | 23 |
| Boston dry hides, | " | 18 | 21 |
| LIME, best sort, | cask | 75 | 80 |
| MOLASSES, New Orleans, | gallon | 20 | 27 |
| Sugar House, | " | | |
| OIL, Sperm, Spring, | " | | 1 05 |
| Winter, | " | 1 15 | 1 16 |
| Whale, refined, | " | 40 | 45 |
| Linseed, American, | " | | |
| Neat's Foot, | " | 95 | |
| PLASTER PARIS, per ton of 2200 lbs. | | | |
| PORK, extra clear, | barrel | | 17 00 |
| clear, | " | | 16 00 |
| Mess, | " | 14 50 | 15 50 |
| Prime, | " | 13 00 | 14 00 |
| SEEDS: Herd's Grass, | bushel | 4 00 | 4 50 |
| Red Top, southern, | " | 70 | 80 |
| northern, | " | | 1 50 |
| Canary, | " | 2 00 | 2 25 |
| Hemp, | " | 2 25 | 2 50 |
| Flax, | " | 2 00 | 2 50 |
| Red Clover, northern, | pound | 13 | 14 |
| Southern Clover, | " | | 15 |
| SOAP, American, Brown, | " | 4 | 6 |
| " Castile, | " | 12 | 13 |
| TALLOW, tried, | " | 8½ | 9 |
| TEAZLES, 1st sort, | pr M. | | |
| WOOL, prime, or Saxony Fleeces, | pound | 45 | 48 |
| American, full blood, washed, | " | 40 | 45 |
| do. 3-4ths do. | " | 40 | |
| do. 1-2 do. | " | 35 | 38 |
| do. 1-4 and common, | " | 35 | 37 |
| Northern pulled. Pulled superfine, | " | 42 | 45 |
| No. 1, | " | 35 | 40 |
| No. 2, | " | 23 | 25 |
| No 3, | " | 18 | 20 |

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### "SHIPPED IN GOOD ORDER AND WELL CONDITIONED."

The following remnant of the early times, when women were willing to get married and not ashamed to own it, is a letter accompanying a shipment of marriageable ladies, made from England to the colony in Virginia. It is dated—

"*London, August* 21, 1621.

"We sendyoua shipment; one widow and eleven maids, for wives of the people of Virginia: there hath been especial care had in the choice of them, for there hath not one of them been received but upon good commendations.

In case they cannot be presently married, we desire that they may be put with several householders that have wives, until they can be provided with husbands. There are nearly fifty more that are shortly to come, and are sent by our Hon. Lord and Treasurer, the Earl of Southampton, and certain worthy gentlemen, who, taking into consideration that the plantation can never flourish till families be planted, and the respect of wives and children for their people on the soil, therefore having given this fair beginning; reimbursing of whose charges, it is ordered, that every man that marries them, give one hundred and twenty pounds of best leaf tobacco for each of them.

We desire that the marriage be free, according to nature, and we would not have those maids deceived and marry to servants; but only to such freemen or tenants as have means to maintain them. We pray you, therefore, to be fathers of them in this business, not enforcing them to marry against their wills."

### BOSTON AND ST. LOUIS.

The western people generally, are not probably aware that the great enterprise of connecting St. Louis with Boston, by a chain of rail roads is going forwards with prospects of speedy accomplishment. The whole line of the road is already chartered. The distance from St Louis to Boston is about twelve hundred and seventyfive miles. Of this will be completed next year from Boston to Buffalo, five hundred and thirtyfive miles—in Ohio on the shore of Lake Erie, sixtythree miles—in Michigan, near the south line, sixtyfive miles—total, six hundred and sixtythree miles—more than half the whole distance, and embracing two thirds of the whole expense. The works in the west are for the present suspended for the want of funds, but it is expected that operations will be resumed at an early date. Here is enterprize exhibited on as grand a scale as the wildest fancy could have imagined. Ten years ago, a plan to connect Boston with St. Louis, would have been regarded as visionary as a scheme to bridge the Atlantic ocean. But a few years will witness the accomplishment of the project, and the extension of the road, perhaps, many miles westward.—*Wheeling Gaz.*

*A dog worth having.*—The Baltimore Sun states that Mr Knight, of the Holiday Street Theatre, while passing along the street, the other day, accidentally dropped his pocket-book, containing $50. When he had proceeded some distance he discovered his loss, and was about retracing his steps to search for the book, when he met his dog running up to him with the pocket-book in his mouth.


### FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

We would inform our customers and friends that we are now receiving our supply of fresh Garden Seeds, most of which have been raised under our own inspection, from fine selected roots; which we warrant to be of the purest quality of the growth of the present season.

Agricultural Books.
Agricultural Implements.
Seed and Implement Catalogues sent to all applicants gratis, and all orders promptly attended to.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Sept. 29, 1840. 4w

The Lowell Journal, Worcester Spy, New Bedford Mercury, Yeoman's Gazette, Northampton Courier, Providence Journal, Norwich Aurora, Essex Banner, Springfield Republican are requested to insert the above 4 times.

### TRACE CHAINS.

Just received, direct from the English manufacturesr, 8 casks of Trace Chains, from 8 to 11 feet long, suitable for ploughing or draft chains. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

### BONE MANURE

The subscriber informs his friends and the public, that after ten years experience, he is fully convinced that ground bones form the most powerful stimulant that can be applied to the earth as a manure.

Orders for Bone Manure or Oyster Shell Lime, left at the Bone Mill, near Tremont road, in Roxbury, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No. 52 North Market Street, or through the Post Office will meet with prompt attention.

March 4, 1840. NAHUM WARD.

### RUTA BAGA AND BROWN CORN.

A few tons of Ruta Baga at $8 per ton. Likewise Brown Corn.—This variety matures in a little over three months, in my opinion, yields as much as any other kind. Those farmers who are desirous of changing seed, may get supplied by calling on G. C. HAWKINS, Charlestown,—One mile from Cambridge Colleges, on the Charlestown road.

Oct 21. 3w

### HYACINTHS.

The subscribers have received a large assortment of Double and Single Hyacinths of every color and shade. Also, Tulips of mixed sorts, Crown Imperials, and Lilies; they have also at their garden all the fine varieties of Pæonies, which will be furnished at one day's notice. Lilies and Pæonies, and Crown Imperials, should be planted in August or the first of September. We shall receive a great variety of Bulbous Roots, from Holland, in a few weeks, when notice will be given. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

August 26.

### GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

Oct. 14.

### ENGLISH ACORNS AND SPANISH CHESNUTS.

Just received and for sale, a few quarts of English Acorns The tree is very beautiful, and one of the most ornamental of the English forest trees. Also a few Spanish Chesnuts, —twice as large as the common sort—price 50 cents per quart. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Oct 28.

### FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.

Gentlemen at a distance, wishing to purchase trees, are informed that we will select from the following nurseries Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Plants and Shrubs of every description that may be desired, and pay particular attention to their packing, and forward them to any part of the country.

From Messrs Winships', Brighton
William Kenrick's, Newton.
John A. Kenrick's, Do.
S. & G. Hyde, Do.
Samuel Pond, Cambridgeport.
Botanic Garden, Cambridge
Robert Manning, Salem.
J L. L F. Warren, Brighton.
Breck & Co., Brighton.

The present is the best time, to transplant all hardy trees and shrubs.

Orders will be received for Plum, Pear and other Stocks, Hedge Plants, &c.

### FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES, &c.

Fruit Trees of all the different species—of the most celebrated kinds. These include Pears, Plums, Apples, Quinces, &c.—the trees of the Peach and Cherry, especially, are of the finest size, and in numbers abounding at this time, and of varieties unsurpassed. The Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Roses and Herbaceous Flowering Plants, will be sent to all who apply; in that Catalogue many of the very best kinds of fruits, so far as proved, are particularly designated *by a star.*

Also, Grape Vines, Raspberries, Strawberries, Gooseberries, and *Mulberries for silk*—Scotch Larch, Lindens, Sycamores, Silver Firs, Willows, Elms—Honeysuckles, Dahlias, splendid Pæonies, &c. &c. Trees when so ordered, will be securely packed for transportation to distant places, and all orders promptly executed by

WILLIAM KENRICK.

Nonantum Hill, Newton, near Boston, Sept. 9, 1840.
eptD1

### FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES, &c.

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JOHN A. KENRICK.

Newton, near Boston, Oct. 14.

### Brighton Nurseries and Gardens. For Sale

A large quantity of superior European and American Ornamental Trees, well calculated for public places, or private grounds, with Fruit Trees embracing a great variety of the most approved kinds and fine sizes. The trees, and all other productions can now be *selected* and *marked*, and will be forwarded to any place as soon as it will answer to remove the same.

Also, forty kinds of Strawberry Plants, of the most approved European and American varieties.

Orders may be forwarded via. mail, addressed Messrs. WINSHIP, Brighton, Mass., or left with Messrs. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Brighton, August 12.

### TIE UP CHAINS.

Just received at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, a good supply of those celebrated Chains for tying up cattle. These chains, introduced by E. H. Derby, Esq. of Salem, and Col. Jacques, of Charlestown, for the purpose of securing cattle to the stall, are found to be the safest and most convenient mode of fastening cows and oxen to the stanchion. They consist of a chain which passes round the animal's neck, and by a ring attached to the stall, plays freely up and down, and leaves the animal at liberty to lie down or rise at pleasure, and keeps him perfectly secure.

July 15. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



### THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER

Is published every Wednesday Evening, at $3 per annum payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within sixty days from the time of subscribing are entitled to a reduction of 50 cents.

TUTTLE, DENNETT AND CHISHOLM, PRINTERS, ..... BOSTON